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TALK OF THE TOWN

When Fred Nye and Frank Johnson purchased the *Omaha Republican* three years ago that journal immediately became the most enterprising newspaper in Nebraska, and it remained so until Fred and Frank, who finally got frightened at the expense account, sold out to Major J. C. Wilcox, one of the most picturesque figures who ever attached himself to Nebraska newspaper. The enterprise of the proprietors manifested itself in many ways, one of which was the establishment of a Lincoln bureau by means of which the *Republican* sought to become a competitor of the *Journal*, *News* and *Call* in the local field. Several columns of Lincoln news were given each day, and it wasn't long before the *Republican* had a circulation of about 300 in this city. When Wilcox obtained control he very soon spoiled all this, as he did every thing else of value connected with the paper.

G. M. Hitchcock, the proprietor of the *Omaha World-Herald*, has for a long time had his eyes upon Lincoln, and he has finally decided to follow the example set by the *Republican* and make his paper a real competitor of Lincoln dailies in their own field. A hand some office has been secured at Eleventh and O streets, and the Lincoln business has been placed in the hands of a set of young men who can make a success of the venture if success is attainable. Will M. Maupin, an exceedingly active man, who is one of the star members of the *World-Herald* staff, has been installed as chief correspondent. Mr. Maupin has the knack of turning out the kind of "stuff" that newspaper readers like, and he is a very hard worker. He will be assisted by B. J. Drummond, who will also act as telegraph operator, there is a special wire running into the office. Ed. Harmon will have charge of the business affairs of the Lincoln branch. From three to four columns have been set apart for Lincoln news. The outcome of the *World-Herald's* latest stroke of enterprise will be watched with interest. There is apparently no good reason why it should not be successful.

Mrs. A. Weber, who will be remembered in Lincoln as a most charming singer, was married May 10 to H. J. Cosgrove, formerly of this city. She has been engaged to sing in a number of concerts to be given in music hall on the world's fair grounds, and some time during the latter part of the month she will sing at Cushman Park, this city. Mr. and Mrs. Cosgrove will make their home in Oak Park.

The campaign which one of the daily papers is waging against the vile places in "the bottoms," raises a question that has agitated cities for many years. There is no official attempt made to throttle the social evil, it having long since been demonstrated by a very peculiar kind of logic that it is not "practicable" to keep up the extermination. The only question is how to regulate the evil. In these days the authorities are at infinitely more pains to license and "regulate" crime and vice than they are to suppress it. The proposition is as follows: Give a certain number of these vicious places under the friendly protection of the law—shall they be gathered together in one section of the city and constitute a definite burnt district, or hell's half acre, or shall they be allowed to spring up and flourish wherever they will, encroaching upon business houses and reputable homes? From the standpoint of morality neither horn of the dilemma should be accepted, but then the affairs of municipal government are seldom conducted on a basis of morality. If Lincoln must have these places, and nearly everybody seems to think that she must, it is unquestionably preferable to keep the dirt together in one pile rather than scatter it broadcast over the city, and if there is any one place better adapted for a dumping ground of immorality than the bottoms The Council has heard of it. Of course it is very hard on the hundreds of respectable people who are forced by poverty to make their residence in this part of the city; but the public is told that the vice cannot be exterminated, and they are only suffering what others would suffer if the resorts were moved elsewhere. It is almost the universal practice in the large cities to slice off a good sized chunk of the town and dedicate it to licensed immorality.

The clothes a man wears undoubtedly have a great deal to do in giving him a place in society, and it is some times said that the best seats in the house of God are reserved for those who are attired in the finest raiment. Some of those people who delight in criticizing the churches draw the line at poverty and welcome only the well to do. And nothing delights these carrying critics so much as an incident that apparently proves their assertions.

So when it is known that the churches of Lincoln will be held up to

public view, and in a few instances in what might be regarded as a more or less unfavorable light, in Sunday's *World-Herald*, a good many people in this city will look forward to the exposure with pleasurable anticipation.

Last Sunday seven reporters of the *World-Herald*, in the guise of tramps sought admission to the churches of this city. Twenty-two churches were visited in all. The experiences of the reporters will be related in detail in tomorrow's issue of Mr. Hitchcock's interesting paper.

As might have been expected the treatment accorded these counterfeit tramps was not the same at all of the churches. In one instance the disguised reporter was actually refused admission. Then in some of the churches the tough looking visitors were coldly received and shown to seats in obscure corners. In other houses of worship the reporters were treated in precisely the same manner as the "patent leather and diamond" contingent, as one of the newspaper men expressed it. On the whole, however, the boys consider that they were fairly well treated, and it is not probable that this sensational feature of the forthcoming issue of the *World-Herald* will contain much that can be construed as an unfavorable reflection on the churches.

In the case of the one man who was refused admission it is hardly fair to blame the church for the foolish mistake of the usher, and it should be borne in mind that what the different, erring ushers did or did not do can hardly be held to represent the spirit of the people who make up the congregations. In many cases they are quite young men, inexperienced and more or less thoughtless, and the extreme rarity of such visitors as the *World-Herald* explorers is, in itself, a partial excuse for the generally courteous attendants; and right here is another point that should be taken into consideration; there is a vast difference between a poor man in tattered garments, and a disreputable thug who presents a half tipsy appearance and looks as though he had just stumbled across the threshold of the church at the end of a wild debauch. The *World-Herald* reporters, with several days' growth of beard, unkempt hair, the most disreputable clothes, blackened eyes, and court-plaster blotches on their faces, presented such a forbidding appearance that they narrowly escaped the clutches of the police. There was not a semblance of humility or penitence about them. They merely looked like the toughest kind of criminals out on a lark, and it cannot be denied that under the circumstances, they had the churches at a decided disadvantage. It is an open question whether there was any Christian or other obligation on the part of the ushers to welcome with open arms these seeming villains out on a spree and place them alongside of self-respecting people. In these days no church refuses a welcome to the poorest mortal, the most abandoned wretch, if he but manifests the slightest degree of interest in the churches are constantly reaching out and seeking to gather these people in. But when a black-eyed tramp forces his way into the presence of reverent and respectable people with an evident intention of mocking and creating a disturbance—that is another matter entirely.

The idea is a clever one from the newspaper standpoint. It was tried in Omaha a year or so ago and occasioned much comment. In this city the scheme was directed by Metcalfe, who has done so much to live up to the *World-Herald*. The reporters who played the part of toughs were: Will M. Maupin, E. C. Henning, Ed. Harmon, B. J. Drummond, E. M. Bradley, E. O. Mayfield, and John Tierney.

What has been called the "North-south railroad convention" will be held in this city, June 28. Delegates have already been appointed in a number of states, and North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Indian Territory, and Texas will be represented. The scheme which this convention is to promote is very largely a populist plan intended to demonstrate that government ownership is the practical solution of the railroad question. It is said that the proposed new line is to give the farmers an opportunity to get their grain and products to foreign markets at less cost than at present, establishing at the same time, reciprocity between this country and South America. Meetings have been held in central and western Kansas favoring the enterprise. The money for the new road is to be furnished by the several states through which it is to run, and when built and equipped for business the road will be the joint property of the states so contributing. Its maintenance and management will be low, no dividends are to be paid, and the profits which might otherwise go to the capitalists will be turned into the pockets of the farmers.

"It may not have occurred to the minds of the populist theorists," says the *New York Sun*, in discussing the project, "but if there were any probable profit in building and operating

such a line as the political economists propose, private individuals would have taken hold of the matter, or would do so now. The truth is that there is no profit in sight. Air line railroads, built in disregard to topographical conditions, seldom pay. There is much unproductive land in western Nebraska and western Kansas, through which this road would run. There are many engineering difficulties. The present population is scanty, and the local traffic would, therefore, amount to little. Few railroads are supported by through freights; few, even in the most fertile and favored sections, can be thus supported. Sending wheat to Galveston, in the expectation of gaining South American products, also agricultural, for return freights, to carry over a long stretch of unproductive country, may commend itself to the populist fancy, but it does not promise to the states participating a return of the cash invested."

It might be interesting to know how much the gamblers of this city contribute to what is known as the press fund.

J. F. Ballinger, of Lincoln, following in the footsteps of R. G. Ingersoll, has written a book entitled "Nudis Verbis, or Bible and Real Truths." It is an agnostic's criticism of the scripture.

After many contradictions it is finally announced with a degree of positiveness that Mgr. Sattoli is coming to Lincoln. The differences in the Catholic church here will soon be a matter of national concern. Every movement of Sattoli is closely followed by the public.

Mr. W. E. Hardy assures THE COURIER that the music this year at the Crete Chautauquassemblies will in some ways be in advance of that of previous years. The two assembly classes will meet daily for eight days and take up the study of oratorio under the direction of Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond of this city. The masses concert with a chorus of two hundred voices will be given Saturday, July 8. Later the Lincoln Oratorio society, assisted by the assembly chorists, will give an evening of grand oratorio. Both concerts will be under the direction of Mrs. Raymond. The soloist engaged by the assembly is Miss Hortense Paulsen, who has a high reputation as a contralto singer both in concert and in church work in Chicago and Boston. Miss Paulsen was a pupil for five years of Warren Davenport in Boston. Her work in concert and oratorio is well known throughout New England. She has filled two of the finest church positions in Boston, in Dr. Meredith's church and the Dudley street Baptist church in Boston Highlands. A year ago she was induced to come to Chicago to accept a remunerative position as contralto in one of the largest churches in that city. Miss Paulsen will sing each day, in solos only, during her stay at Crete, and will give one evening concert. Among the selections already announced are "The Pilgrim," by Adams; "Answer," by Robyn; "Polly Willis," by Arne; "Lullaby," by Dennee; "For All Eternity," by Mascheroni.

The second "matinee" of the newly formed roadster club was held Tuesday at the state fair grounds and the interest manifested on this occasion evidenced the popularity of the sport which the club will provide from time to time during the summer. There will be a third racing meeting next Friday.

C. W. Mosher told an *Omaha Bee* reporter the other day that he will plead guilty to the charge of embezzlement and falsifying bank records, at least that is what the reporter says. Mr. Mosher's father in law, Henry Mansfield, died at his home in Peoria, Monday, and Mr. Mosher both attended the funeral.

There seems to be a prospect that the O street viaduct may be erected on P street. The advocates of the latter street make many claims, some of which are well founded.

The effort to pay off the debt of the Y. M. C. A. building is not meeting with the encouragement it merits. No institution in the city is of more general benefit, and it ought not to be difficult to raise a sufficient amount of money to clear it from debt.

DEATH OF C. H. CLARKE.

Charles H. Clarke died Thursday afternoon in his apartments in the Hotel Ideal, after a brief attack of pneumonia brought on by a cold contracted at Cushman Park last Saturday. The deceased was twenty-two years of age. He was a member of the last legislative assembly and for some years past was actively identified with his father's business interests in Omaha and Lincoln. In this city he was especially well known and his death is mourned by many sincere friends. The remains were taken to Omaha yesterday. The interment will take place at Forest Lawn Sunday. Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday, at the residence of H. T. Clarke, Twenty-fifth and Cass streets.

If the hair is falling out and turning gray, the glands of the skin need stimulating and color food, and the best remedy and stimulant is Hall's Hair Renewer.

POINTS IN POLITICS

The daily papers united in saying that the banquet given by the Young Men's Republican club was a success, and as they are all agreed on this point, it must be so. It isn't the easiest thing in the world to make people pay and turn out to hear political speeches at a time when there is absolutely no political excitement, and the attendance and enthusiasm at the banquet Monday night were particularly gratifying to the members of the club. A noteworthy feature of the gathering was that while the large dining hall of the Windsor was almost completely filled those present with very few exceptions were young men. Judge Chapman and ex-Judge Reese were the only gray heads there—but they stayed just as long and had just as much fun as any of the boys.

When THE COURIER promised a rare treat in Mr. Estabrook's address on "Parties" it knew that the fulfillment would fill up and overflow the promise and it did most effectively. Mr. Estabrook's speech was delivered to the young men surrounded by the four walls of the Windsor dining hall, but in reality he spoke to the entire city of Lincoln. The papers, notably the *State Journal*, gave admirable reports of his address, but the electric effect of his peroration was communicated by the banqueters to those on the outside, and that's the way Henry Estabrook's magnificent effort has become the talk of the town. A reporter with the celerity of chain lightning, the ear of an owl, and the amiability of an angel couldn't reduce one of Estabrook's speeches to paper and half do him justice. His subtlety of expression, grace of manner, splendid delivery, a voice that rises and falls in musical cadence in correspondence with the rhythm of his words, all these are lost in the printed report. Cold type conveys the fire of passionate eloquence, and deadens the finer qualities of speech. Leaving but a bare outline of a form full of beauty a colorless photograph of a brilliant bouquet.

Estabrook is a scholarly man and his mind is not muddy. He has a keen wit and is a master hand at sarcasm. His address on "Parties" was an ideal banquet talk, a speech with real thought in it, polished off with a delicacy and wit that made it sparkle with brilliancy. The other speakers acquitted themselves most creditably. Mr. Andrews, who is not yet well known in this city, was at a disadvantage in coming at the end of the program, but his twenty minute talk on young men was interesting and forcible and made a very pleasant impression. Ike Lansing and Thurston have been heard many times in Lincoln and both are favorites. Their subjects were well handled, as usual, and Mr. Kelley, the president of the club, made an excellent toastmaster.

The death of Col. E. D. Webster, of Stratton, which occurred a few months ago, calls to mind the fact that not long prior to his death the colonel came near taking a step that would have made him a very important factor in the republican party in Nebraska. He had restored him to the position he once held. It is true that Col. Webster came very near stepping in between the *Omaha Republican* and death just before J. C. Wilcox terminated his existing career as a newspaper proprietor by sending into everlasting oblivion that remarkable newspaper, the *Republican* that beginning as a weekly with E. D. Webster as editor years ago when Nebraska had just denied her seceding clothes, and when the condition of the *g. o. p.* made the establishment of the *Republican* fill a long felt want, was afterwards the varying joy and sorrow of a long line of editors and proprietors, among whom may be mentioned St. A. D. Badcombe, Public Printer Rounds, Cad Taylor, O. H. Rothacker and Fred Nye.

Col. Webster had long since ceased to take an active interest in politics or the newspaper business; but deep down in his heart he cherished an affection for the *Republican* which had been the means of some of his earlier triumphs, and when, before Major Wilcox had succeeded in doing that which so many able men before him had not been able to do, killing the leading republican paper of the west, the terrible plight of the wretched old sheet was represented to him, he very promptly determined to lend a helping hand. Webster made an offer of \$25,000, through the then managing editor, for the plant, and he expected that Wilcox would jump at the bait. But the colonel did not know the major. Although Wilcox paid only \$25,000 for the *Republican* when he purchased it from Nye and Johnson, of which only about \$15,000 was cash, and notwithstanding the fact that he had, with his incredible celerity, transformed what was in many respects the best newspaper in Omaha into a journalistic monstrosity, he fondly imagined that the *Republican* was worth \$20,000, and when Webster's offer was laid before him he drew himself up with all the effrontery of a Col. Mulberry Sellers

and said he would take \$20,000 or nothing. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that he took nothing. At this time the major and the *Republican* and all the employees and some of the creditors were bankrupt. Salaries had remained unpaid for a couple of weeks and the wolves had already entered the door. But the major insisted on receiving \$20,000 for a plant that was worth about \$1,000.

In a few weeks, just a few days before publication was suspended, Wilcox condescended to inform his managing editor that he believed he would sell to Webster for \$25,000. But the latter had by this time left the city and gone east and could not be reached in time to stave off the disaster that quickly followed.

It is possible that had it not been for Wilcox's obstinacy republican politics in Nebraska in the last two or three years might have undergone a radical change. Between Webster and the editor of the *Bee*, known otherwise as "the pilot," there was little personal friendship and in politics they differed radically. The *Republican*, under Webster, would have been a "straight" republican newspaper with the most aggressive tendencies, and it would have been strongly anti-Rosewater. Few men are better fitted to conduct a great party newspaper than was Col. Webster. He was W. H. Seward's private secretary during the war and for many years was prominent in public life as a republican. At one time he was an editorial writer on one of the leading New York dailies, and in Nebraska he was for a long time actively identified with the *g. o. p.* However, on account of his age, he would not have taken the personal management of the paper himself. But he would have employed the best talent and was ready to spend money freely in building up the unfortunate newspaper.

There is some talk to the effect, that C. W. Griffith may pull out of the race for the republican nomination for register of deeds and become a candidate for county treasurer.

Many newspapers are demanding the removal of Joseph Garneau, jr., world's fair commissioner, and it is barely possible that the governor may yet see the error of his ways and induce the cracker man to quit. The commissioner has recently been urged to set apart \$50 for a special educational exhibit which would show some of the advantages of the state university, but of course he declined the request. Meanwhile the funds are being rapidly consumed in traveling and other expenses.

C. H. Van Wyck didn't die, but he came very near it, near enough to be extensively eulogized by newspapers that have adored him for years. Van Wyck undoubtedly has many admirable personal traits; but politically he is the biggest fraud who has ever afflicted Nebraska. The word demagogue fits Van Wyck just as though it had been made for him.

There is quite a sentiment in favor of an early republican county convention. It is probable that it will be called for the latter part of next month.

Sam E. Low wishes it to be understood that he is not a candidate for justice of the peace.

One of the first speeches made by G. M. Lamberton in a political convention was an eulogy of Lorenzo Crouse incident the placing of his name before the convention as a candidate for congress, away back in the seventies.

It was a very high flown speech in which the eagle soared so high that its screams pierced the blue canopy of heaven. It was one of those "a man who" speeches, in which the speaker without giving the name of his hero, proceeds to round out swelling periods of praise, now in thunder tones of eloquence, now in subdued strains, like the far away whistling of the wind through the pines. "I desire to place in nomination," said Mr. Lamberton, "a man who," and then he apotheosized the speaker, and then more apotheosizing a couple of gentlemen were sitting in a private box in the hall in which the convention was held, one of them, a stranger in the state, and after this sort of thing had been going on for some time, until the tension was making everybody nervous, the latter turned to his companion and asked, "In heaven's name who is Mr. Lamberton placing in nomination, who is this man he is talking about?" The reply came in a whisper, "I don't know, I think it must be Jesus Christ." What those gentlemen thought when at the end of the speech came the words "Lorenzo Crouse" is beyond conjecture. Comparisons, somebody once remarked are odious and the *Omaha* has no desire to cast odium on anybody.

Jay Burrows hasn't seen a real live vision for nearly two weeks. After discovering the great republican conspiracy to make Crouse senator, Van Wyck governor and Rosewater general

high cockalorum he hasn't seen any thing but plain, ordinary spectacles.

"Not long ago there was a vigorous controversy in Omaha as to whether Allen G. Thurman is dead or alive," remarked John M. Thurston to a *Comstock* representative the other day. "Somebody started the query and strangely enough nearly everybody to whom the question was put answered unhesitatingly that the 'noble old Roman' was dead. In many instances the approximate date of his death and more or less minute details of the funeral were given. I believe Dr. George E. Miller was about the first man to bring Thurman to life. Considerable money changed hands when it was finally decided that the aged democrat is really alive." Mr. Thurston was asked if it was positively ascertained that Thurman is still on top of the earth, as a similar query has been heard in this city. "Well," he replied, "he says so himself, and I believe that is as far as the investigators went."

Charles H. Clarke, of Omaha, whose death occurred in this city Thursday afternoon, was, for his years, a remarkably keen business man, and in politics he achieved greater success than many older men who have devoted their whole lives to the fascinating but unsatisfactory pursuit. He is believed to be the youngest man ever elected to the legislature, and prior to his elevation to the senate he had obtained a considerable degree of prominence in politics in Lincoln and Omaha. Young Clarke was one of the first to mention Lorenzo Crouse for governor, and he worked hard to bring about his nomination, in which endeavor the Clarke family, singularly enough, found themselves pitting with Mr. Rosewater, for the first time in a number of years.

Church Howe and Congressman McKeljohn and Dave Mercer were in the city this week. The former has nearly recovered from his severe attack of rheumatism.

A temporary organization of the bimetallic league was affected at the Lindell hotel Wednesday evening. E. E. Brown was elected chairman, Jay Burrows, secretary, and C. C. Burr, treasurer. The next meeting will be held Tuesday evening at the office of the *Albion Leader*.

Mrs. Helen M. Gougar, who will be remembered in this state as one of the principal performers in the prohibition circus three years ago, and who has a habit of saying sharp things, has fallen under the displeasure of the organ of her party, the *New York Voice*. That paper says: "There has been on her part of late a recklessness in assault upon other prohibitionists, men and women too, whose sincerity has been tested by far longer service than her own, that has tried the tolerance of more of her friends probably than she is aware of."

The supreme court decided to wait a week or so before giving out a decision in the impeachment case. The result is pretty sure to be announced in a few days, however. It is significant that the populist and democratic newspapers are just now administering taffy to Judge Maxwell in large and enthusiastic doses, and it is somehow difficult to believe that the venerable, though still ambitious judge, will be able to entirely separate political considerations from his action in the case. An opinion against the state officers will not unlikely result in his receiving the independent nomination for another term on the supreme bench, and a great many democrats would gladly vote for him.

Judge Chapman was in town this week. He has thus far given no intimation as to his prospective candidacy for Judge Maxwell's place; but most people think he will be in the race.

Constipation, and all troubles with the digestive organs and the liver, are cured by Hood's Pills. Unequalled as a dinner pill.

You can buy glove fitting shoes at one third less than usual prices at Herpolsheimer & Co.

Something good "White Loaf Flour" \$1.10 per sack. Miller & Gifford.

New Imported Swiss cheese, Miller & Gifford, grocers, opp. Burr Bldg.

Largest underwear and hosiery department under the lowest at Herpolsheimer & Co.

The finest grocery store in the city, Miller & Gifford.

Military department of Herpolsheimer & Co. offer Leghorn & Milan brand at 50 cents. Worth 60 cents.

Mountain Rose-Pine Apple is better and cheaper than any other in the market. Miller & Gifford.

Visit the New Students' gallery and be convinced that the work is first-class—1331 O street.